

A JOURNAL

OF THE



Late Actions

OF THE

French at Canada.

WITH

The Manner of their being Repuls'd, by
His Excellency, *Benjamin Fletcher*, Their
Majesties Governour of *New-York*.

*Impartially Related by Coll. Nicholas ^{Bayard}Reyard, and Lieu-
tenant Coll. Charles Lodowick, who attended His
Excellency, during the whole Expedition.*

To which is added,

- I. An Account of the present State and Strength of *Canada*, given by Two *Dutch Men*, who have been a long Time Prisoners there, and now made their Escape.
- II. The Examination of a *French Prisoner*.
- III. His Excellency *Benjamin Fletcher's* Speech to the *Indians*.
- IV. An Address from the Corporation of *Albany*, to His Excellency, Returning Thanks for His Excellency's early Assistance for their Relief.

Litented, Sept. 11th. 1693, EDWARD COOKE.

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THE
PREFACE.

AS this following small Treatise is a short Narrative of some little Check given by the English Gallantry to the Arms and Attempts of France, so far off as the Indian Territories; so it gives us an occasion of considering, How the Great Lewis may justly plume himself with a Title peculiarly his own, viz. The great Disturber of the World. For, tho the Bloodiest and most Active Scene of that Monarch's Ambition seems bounded within the Confines of Europe; yet is there hardly that most distant Region or Nation, the very utmost Corner of the Universe, but has some Footsteps of his Aspiring Arms. For, besides the Tragick Theatre he has made within the Bowels of Christendom, not to instance his Leagues with Mahomet, the unnatural Subjection of his most Christian Cross to the most
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The Preface.

Anti-Christian Crescent, *his Ambition* has been a little busie too in the American Quarter of the Globe. 'Tis true, *his Strength* has neither been formidable, nor *his Stars* favourable in this Remoter Stage. Justice seems, at least, to the American Climate, to reign Lady of the Ascendant, in carrying Victory to the Honester Side; witness the several Advantages obtain'd, not only in the following Expedition, the subject of our present Treatise; but in divers other Advances of Their Majesties Prosperous Arms in those Parts.

But, as this Preface is only a Compliment to my Readers Introduction, I shall leave him to the Entertainment he finds, only assure him; we have this Credit to the Truth of our Narration, That 'tis no more than what has been already Printed at New-York by his Excellency's (the Commander in Chief in the Expedition) particular Authority there; and now made Publick Here, for the Satisfaction of all such Honest English Readers, as can take Pleasure in the Success of their Countrey's Arms and Interest.

A

Journal of the Late Actions of the FRENCH of CANADA, &c.

SUNDAY, the 12th of *February*, 1692. about ten a Clock at Night, an Express from Lieut. Colonel *Beecknam* of *Ulster* County, gave his Excellency an account of Advice from *Albany*, of the *French* and *Indians*, consisting of 550, being within twenty Miles of *Schenectady* on the 8th. Instant an Hour before Day, ready to fall upon the two first Castles of the *Mohagues*.

Whereupon His Excellency ordered the Col. of the Militia of the City of *New-York* to draw out his Regiment the next Morning.

Monday the 13th, Orders were sent to Col. *Courtland* of *Kings-County*, to detach out of their Regiments a hundred and fifty Men, to be forth-with ready to Imbarque at the Ferry.

About eight a Clock in the Morning the City Regiment being under Arms, his Excellency on Horse-back, at the head of the Regiment, demanded, *Who were willing to follow him to the Frontiers against the Enemy?* They unanimously threw up their Hats, and cried, *One and all*. Upon which the Colonel was ordered to detach 150 of the fittest Men, to be under the Command of three Captains, with their Subalterns, ready at the first Beat of Drum, and dismissed the Regiment, and ordered all Sloops for Transportation to be secured. About ten a Clock his Excellency did send the Express forward to Col. *Beecknam*, with Orders to get all the Horses in the County of *Ulster* together in readiness, to carry his Excellency and the Detachments from *Kingstone* to *Albany* by Land, in case the River was not open, and to forward any Confirmation of the News to his Excellency.

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Tuesday

Tuesday the 14th, by break of Day came an Express from Major *Ingoldsby*, confirming the former News, and that the two first Castles were taken by the *French* and *Indians*. Whereupon eight Sloops were ordered with necessary Provisions and Ammunition to go round the Fort, and to be ready to Sail, and the Detachment of the City Regiment did immediately Imbarque. About four a Clock afternoon, the Tide offering, his Excellency, attended with the Officers of the Detachment and several Volunteers, did imbarque and set sail.

Friday the 17th, about 9 a Clock his Excellency arrived at *Albany* (being 50 Leagues distant from *New-York*) with five of the Sloops, having met with much Ice in the River, which gave some Difficulty; the rest arrived towards Evening.

As soon as they came on Shore, his Excellency ordered Captain *Schuyler* to march 50 of the Men for *Schenectady*; about 2 11 a Clock his Excellency followed, with 16 Horse, leaving Instructions with Col. *Beyard* to forward all the rest of the Detachments, as they did arrive towards *Schenectady*, without loss of time, together with the Ammunition and Provisions.

About 3 a Clock afternoon his Excellency met Major *Ingoldsby*, about 8 Miles from *Schenectady*, on his Return from *Albany*, having gone from thence to visit *Schenectady* that Morning. His Excellency arrived at *Schenectady* (being 20 Miles from *Albany*) about 5 a Clock. About 9 a Clock at Night Capt. *Schuyler* with his Men arrived, and found Provisions and Quarters in readinefs for his Men. *Saturday* Morning the 18th, by break of Day, the Men were ready to be transported over the River, but a violent Storm did hinder their Transportation till Afternoon, and sundry *Indian* Women loaden with Provisions were sent along with them: This Day about Noon Major *Merrit*, with the rest of the City Detachment, did arrive at *Schenectady*, and were immediately furnished with Quarters, Ammunition, and Provisions, ready to march next Morning.

Sunday the 19th, by break of Day, the rest of the Forces that were fit to march, did attempt to get over, but great quantites of loose Ice did hinder till about 10 a Clock, the Ice settling, they got over

over it on Foot, which in two Hours after was dispersed, and the River open again. This party carried a further supply of Provisions and Ammunition.

Monday the 20th, by Break of Day, those of the City Detachments who were not able to march the Day before (being refreshed) his Excellency detached from the Garrison of *Schenectady*, so many of them as made 42, who did immediately march with 13 Horses loaden with Provision and Ammunition.

About 2 a Clock afternoon arrived at *Schenectady* Capt. *Stillwell* with the Detachment of *Kings County*, consisting of 50 Men, who were ordered to refresh themselves till next Morning, and 3 Horses with Provisions ordered to be in readiness to attend them.

Tuesday the 21st. The Horses being carried over the River, and the Men ready to be transported, came an Express from Major *Schuyler*, giving Intelligence of his being near at hand on his Return, who arrived about 4 a Clock afternoon, upon which the Men and Horse were remanded, and sent back to their own Home. There marched by his Excellency's Order, to joyn Major *Schuyler*, since his Arrival 208 effective Men, besides Guides and Carriers of Supplies, with considerable quantities of Provisions and Ammunition, which are since returned.

Wednesday the 22d. His Excellency returned for *Albany*, accompanied with Major *Schuyler*, and several of the Forces came from pursuit of the Enemy, and arrived about 3 a Clock afternoon, much dissatisfied at the Enemies escape.

His Excellency did order Major *Schuyler*, with some other Officers to give the Journal of their Action in the Woods.

At 4 a clock arrived Col. *Willet* at *Albany*, with 120 Men from *Queens County*, who were next Morning remanded home to their Habitations, together with the rest of the Detachments. At Night his Excellency sent to call those *Indians* that were returned from the Fight, to meet him next Morning at *Albany*.

Thursday the 23d. A Proclamation issued, requiring all the out Farmers to draw themselves into Neighbourhoods, for their better security against the sculking Enemy, and to fortify with Stockadoes.

Fryday the 24th. His Excellency received an Address from the Corporation of *Albany*, congratulating his safe Return, and returning Thanks for his early Assistance with his personal Presence for their Relief, &c.

Saturday the 25th. The *Indians* being arrived last Night, and giving their Attendance, this Morning his Excellency, being accompanied with the Magistrates of this City, and the Souldiers and Militia in Arms, came to the City Hall, and made his Speech to the *Indians*, which was Interpreted to them by the Interpreters *Helle*. In the Afternoon they gave their Answer to his Excellency by the same Interpreters.

Sunday the 26th. About 8 a Clock in the Morning, four of the chief *Sachims* came to his Excellency, with some further Propositions, which he immediately answer'd to their Satisfaction.

Monday the 27th. His Excellency caused a Proclamation to be published, prohibiting the selling of Rum to the *Indians*, and did imbarque for *New-York*, where he arrived *Thursday* Morning following, and was received with such Expressions of Joy and Thankfulness as the place could afford.

Nicholas Beyard, } Col.
Charles Lodwick } Lieut. Col.

A JOURNAL of the Actions in the Woods, between the FRENCH and INDIANS.

IN Obedience to his Excellency's Command, *Peter Schuyler* Mayor, with the other Officers under his Command, gave this following Account of their Proceedings since the first Intelligence of the Enemy's descent into the Country of the *Mohagues*.

February the 8th, being *Wednesday*, about 2 a Clock afternoon, we had the Alarm from *Schenectady*, that the *French* and *Indians* had taken the *Mohagues* Castles; soon after we had the News, that a Young-man, called *Jan Baptist van Eps*, (taken at *Schenectady* 3 Years ago) was run over from the *French*, as they were to attack

attack the first Castle of the *Mohagues*, and come to *Schenectady*, who related, that the *French* were 350 *Christians* and 200 *Indians*. Major *Ingoldsbey* sent forth with his Warrants, to command in the Farmers of Capt. *Genits* and Capt. *Tunis*'s Companies of Militia. This Night Lieut. *John Schuyler* and Cornet *Abeel* with 55 Horse, marched to *Schenectady*.

February 9. Cornet *Abeel* came expresse from *Schenectady*, and desired that Major *Schuyler* or Major *Wessels* might be sent thither to pacifie the *Indians*, who were enraged that no *Christians* went out in pursuit of the Enemy. Upon which Major *Schuyler* at his own Request was permitted to go that Evening. As soon as Major *Schuyler* arrived there, he sent out Scouts to spy the Forts and the Enemies Motion, and withal to go and warn the *Tionondoge* *Indians* of the Enemies coming, but they having gone 12 Miles, returned about 12 a Clock at Night, saying, they could not get over the River.

Feb. 10. Major *Schuyler* sent Lieut. *John Schuyler* and Lieut. *John Sanders*, and six more to view the *Mohagues* Fort that was possessed by the Enemy, who brought News, that the *French* were in both the Forts; of all which he gave advice to Major *Ingoldsbey* at *Albany*.

Feb. 11. Major *Schuyler* sent 10 *Christians* and 40 *Indians* to lie near the Enemy, and to watch their Motion, who made a small Fort to retreat into, and so spied what the Enemy did.

Feb. 12. News was brought to *Schenectady* by some of the said Scouts, that they had heard firing at the *Mohagues* Forts, which was supposed the *Tionondoge* *Indians* against the *French*; which News Major *Schuyler* sent forward to *Albany*. Whereupon Major *Ingoldsbey* detached about 200 Men out of the several Companies of the Militia Fuzileers and Troop, commanded by Capt. *Peter Matthews*, Capt. *Arent Schuyler*, Capt. *Benj. Phips*, Capt. *Kibbel van Rensselaer*, and Capt. *Tho. Gartin*, who arrived at *Schenectady* about 2 a Clock afternoon, and joyned Major *Schuyler*: The Waggons with Bread arrived that Night. This day our Scouts brought us the News, that the *French* were there still, and that they had also cut off the third Castle of the *Mohagues*, called, *Tionondoge*, and that none of

the upper *Indians* were come down; all which was advertised to Major *Ingoldsby* forthwith, and Major *Schuyler* sent to him for Orders to march.

Feb. 13. This Morning having received no answer of the said Express, Major *Schuyler* sent another to march, and being pressed with the *Indians*, who threatned else to desert us, was forced to march the Men over the River without Orders, which came about 4 a Clock in the Afternoon, when most of the Men were got over the River. This very time we had News by our out Scouts, that the *French* had burnt the *Mohaques* three Castles, and were marched away, which Major *Schuyler* ordered Lieut. *Young* to signify to Major *Ingoldsby*. We marched 12 Miles that Evening, being 273 *Christians*. In the Night about 10 a Clock one of our Scouts came in, and told us that 600 of our uppermost *Indians* were coming down; Major *Schuyler* forthwith sent the same Messenger, that brought us the News, to Major *Ingoldsby*, and desired that Provision and Ammunition should be sent after us, not knowing what the *Indians* might have occasion for.

Feb. 14. About 1 or 2 a Clock in the Morning we decamped, and marched to the small Fort that was made by our 50 Scouts, about six a Clock in the Morning, where we had Advice, that the Enemy was not above eight Miles from us; upon which Lieut. *Harmer van Slyk* and two *Indians* were sent to discover the Enemy, who brought us word they were marched; two *Indians* came to us with News, that there were 300 of our upper *Indians* within 20 Miles of us, whereupon we sent two *Indians* back to hasten them up, and to let them know we were there to joyn them. We sent three *Mohaques* to discover the Enemy; about 4 a Clock in the Afternoon we decamped, and marched to the Place where the Enemy had lain the Night before.

Feb. 15. In the Morning two of our *Indian* Scouts returned, (the third being run over to the Enemy) who brought us News they had seen the Enemy within ten Miles. Our *Indians* came up with us about 12 a Clock, being 290 Men and Boys, some Armed, and some without Arms, a Consult being had, we marched about
four

four a Clock, and encamped all together, having marched about ten Miles that Afternoon. This Night a Consult was held, and Spyes sent to discover the Enemy.

Feb. 16. We marched early in the Morning, and having gone ten Miles, found the place where the Enemy had lain two Nights before; we halted there, an *Oneyde Indian* came from the Enemy, being sent to our *Indians* to debauch them over to the *French*, which Messenger we did not think fit to send back, being one of the Prisoners taken at *Tionondoge*. We sent an Expres to Major *Ingoltsby* to acquaint him that the Enemy had built a Fort, and were resolved to fight us, and sent for supplies of Provision, Ammunition, and Men. We marched on toward the Enemy, and met with one of our wounded *Indians*, who informed, that the Enemy stayed for us in a Fort; upon which we marched about two Miles, where a Christian Boy (*Arnant* the Interpreters Son) came to us, who had been three years a Prisoner among the *French*, he gave an Account, that the Enemy were about 6 or 700 Men, and within three Miles; we marched forward to find some convenient place to Encamp, and to fortifie ourselves from the Enemy that Night: We had Scouts out (*Christians* and *Indians*) all Night to watch the Enemies motion, who brought an account in the Morning, that we were within a Mile of their Fort.

Feb. 17. We decamped, and marched towards the Enemy with Scouts before us, and did not take a direct line, but went round, for fear of an Ambuscade, and came in sight of their Fort about eight a Clock in the Morning, where our Scouts came and shewed us where the Enemy lay; upon which all the Officers were commanded to take their Posts, and make ready to engage, being 250 *Christians*, and 290 *Indians*; the Enemy seeing us, gave three Huzza's, which we answer'd with as many, and as loud as they, and made the Woods ring: our *Indians* went to work to fall Trees, and fortifie; but the Enemy sallied out immediately; we engaged them, and beat them back into their Fort; our *Indians* fell to work again, and desired our *Christians* to help, which they did; the Enemy sallied out with all their Strength a second time, encouraging their Men, crying, *They run, we will cut them all off, and get their Provisions*; We received them.

them briskly, and beat them back into their Fort, with the loss of several of their Men: Our Men fell to work again about the Fort; the Enemy sallied out the third time, but were as well repulsed as before, and beat into their Fort with considerable loss, our *Indians* bringing several of their Heads and Scalps into our Fort; after this the Enemy was quiet, and we finish'd our Fort: as soon as this Skirmish was over, we sent an Express to Major *Ingoldsby*, to acquaint him what had passed, praying him to hasten our Recruits with Provision and Ammunition, for that the greatest part of our Men had not had any Provision in two days time; we sent our Scouts of *Christians* and *Indians* all that Night, to discover our Enemies Motion, and lay all Night in our Fort; it was extream bad, cold, snowy Weather.

Feb. 18. Being cold stormy Weather, and Snow, insomuch that we could scarce see any Tract; our Scouts came in this Morning, which gave Account that the Enemy were in their Fort, some being still popping at our People. About nine a Clock an *Indian* that left the *French* in their Fort, told us, *He thought the Enemy would retreat, that they were packing up their Baggage.* Upon which Major *Schyler* ordered the Captains to draw out their Men to march round the Enemy's Fort to stop them; but the same time had an Account they were fled; he commanded the Officers to pursue them, and to hinder their Retreat, till Men and Provisions came up; but the Men wanting Provision, refused to march; the Officers, with 60 *Christians*, and some *Indians*, pursued the Enemy till they had made a small Fortification; but the Officers not having Men to engage them, nor to make a Fort, returned back, leaving two Officers with 40 Men and 100 *Indians* to watch their motion, expecting our Provision to come up that Night.

Feb. 19. About 7 a Clock in the Morning we had an Account that our Provisions were near at hand, which came up to us about nine or ten a Clock with 80 Men, commanded by Capt. *Simms*; the Provisions being immediately distributed among the Men, those that were first served, were commanded away after the Enemy, with five Baskets a Man: About four a Clock, the Van being com-
manded

manded by Capt. *Peter Matthews* and Capt. *Arent Schuyler*, came up near the Rear of the Enemy, the Scouts telling us the Enemy were within less than an *English* Mile; we desired the *Indians* to joyn with us to fall upon their Rear, till the rest of our Men came up, sending in the mean time to our People, to march up in all haste; but the *Indians* halted; and could not be perswaded to march, the *Mohagues* being most unwilling, because the Enemy had dropt several Prisoners, who told them, that if they pursued them, they would kill all their Wives and Children, whom they had Prisoners; after an hours Consultation of the *Indians*, most of our Men came up, we marched with all speed, thinking to overtake the Enemy before they got to the River-side; but there being a flake of Ice in one part of the River, and all open above and below, the Enemy got over before we got up: We encamped by the River-side that Night.

Feb. 20. In the Morning Major *Schuyler* resolved to march over the River, to pursue the Enemy, ordering the Officers to get the Men ready for that purpose; but many of the Men being wearied with fatigue, their Shoes being quite wore out, and Provisions scarce, were not able to make any further pursuit: But that which did most of all discourage us, was, that the *Indians* had great averfeness to pursue or fall upon the Enemy, because of their Wives and Children; whereupon we marched back.

In this Engagement we lost four private Souldiers, and four *Indians*, two Officers, and twelve *Christians*, and *Indians* wounded; and we had an Account by some of our *Indian* Prisoners that made their Escape, that we killed of the Enemy 33, whereof we found but 27, among which was their Commandant, one Captain, and two other Officers, with two of their commanding *Indians*, and 26 Wounded. We rescued between forty and fifty Prisoners.

Since their Retreat we are informed by divers of the Prisoners who come home daily, that all our Men Prisoners except five, have made their escape, or are set at Liberty, and but few Women and Children left with them, not being able to carry the Prisoners off, by reason of their Wounded Men, whereof they carried thirteen.

As we did not hear, so we could not expect that your Excellency should in so short time (at that Season of the Year) be advanced so near us as to *Schenectady*, and that so considerable Supplies could be so speedily got together: And we observed it was no small Encouragement to our *Indians* to see your Excellency at the head of 300 Men, besides Volunteers, for our Relief, and theirs; of which we are all sensible.

Peter Schyler, Major.

Peter Matthews, Capt. } K. V. Renselaer, Capt.
Arent Schuyler, Capt. } Benj. Phipps, Capt.

The Examination of Andres Casparus and Cornelius Claese van den Bergh, both Dutchmen, taken before his Excellency Benj. Fletcher, Governour, who have made their Escape from Canada, who were Prisoners there, and have been 32 Days by the Way.

THE said *Cornelius Claese van den Bergh* was taken at *Canastagiere* in July, 1691, a little before the Mayor *Peter Schuyler* went to *Canada*, and *Andres Caspares* who was gone out with some of our River *Indians* last fall to hunt, and withal, to see how the far Nations, called, the *Turchtuicks* lived, was taken last March by a Party of *Turchtuicks* and *Davaganhaes*, and brought to a Castle where the said *Indians* lived, and was there to be burnt and eat by the said *Indians*, from whence he run away that very day he received his cruel Sentence, and was sixteen days in the Woods, and came to a place where Monsieur *Tontys* People were making a Fort, and the said *Monf. Tonty*, and *Monf. La Free* brought him to *Canada*.

The said Prisoners say, that the *French* informed them, that there were ten Ships come from *France* with Provision and Amunition, but no Men, scarce so many as could sail their Ships, that they had brought 120000 pound of Flower, and 160000 pound of Pork, also some great Guns, and two Mortar Pieces.

That

That there is a Fort built below *Quebeck*, in a narrow Passage where Ships must pass; the *French* spoke of two Forts, (but an *English-man* told him only of one Fort,) and twelve Guns in each Fort. They had 1600 Souldiers three year ago, of which a 1000 are killed and taken; this is besides 200 Inhabitants who are killed.

The said *Cornelius* has lived all this while at the Governour of *Mont Royal's* House, called, *Monsieur d' Cellier*, and judges there are about 400 Men in *Mont Royal* with Souldiers and all, although the said *Monsieur d' Cellier* often told them, they had 700 Men there.

There is a Man come over with those Ships to be *Monf. d' Cellier's* Cook, who says, that the *English* had fallen upon the *French* Fleet unawares, and done them some damage, and pursued them to *Brest*, and if they had come but a quarter of an hour sooner, they had taken *Brest*, and all the Provinces of *Brittantine*.

The *French* have lost this Summer 37 *French*, and 70 *Indians* at one time, going up the Falls to *Ottawawa*, and at a second time they lost 30 *French* the same way, and often-times smaller Parties killed by our *Indians*.

The said *Andres Casparus* says further, that when he came to the *French* House, after he had escaped from the *Indians*, the *French* tyed him two days, but he being so lean and meager, having no Food all that time, but 11 Eggs he found in a *Turkies* Nest, and 6 Swan Eggs he found in another place, so that the *French* did unty him. About eight days after *Monsieur Tonty* came, (who is in the manner of a Governour among them) and he went down with the said *Tonty* to *Ottawawa*, which was 200 Leagues from that place; the said *Tonty* dispatched about 25 or 30 great Cannows full of Beaver to *Canada*; and after they had been two days from *Ottawawa*, they met one *Monsieur de Lille*, who had been out a skulking upon the great River, and had taken two Prisoners, who told that 300 of our *Indians* lay at a carrying place on the great River, waiting for the *Ottawawa* Company, and 200 were near *Mont Royal* Island, upon the same design. They stopt the said Company till *Monsieur Tonty* sent for them back, and resolved to go to *Canada* with 200 Men *Indians* and *French*, without Beavers, in which Company the said

Andres Casparus came, being reckoned 300 Leagues between *Ottawawa* and *Canada*. As soon as the said *Andres* came to *Mont Royal*, *Monfieur Tonty* delivered him to the Governour of *Mont-Royal*, who put him in Prison four days, and then released him to work in his House; but as soon as he got out, consulted with his Comrade *Cornelius* to run away, which they did accordingly. After they had been about a Month or five Weeks together in the said *Monf. d'Cellier's* House, the said *Andres* says, he saw a great prodigious Quantity of Beavers at *Ottawawa*; an Inhabitant of *Canada*, called *Jaques de Tallie*, told him he had 3000 Beavers of his own there, and that there was as many Beavers now in *Ottawawa* as would load 200 Canows to *Canada*, and each Canow generally holds nine or ten hundred Beavers, which the said *Andres* doth credibly believe to be true, there being none gone from thence to *Canada* in a great while.

There is a Fort at *Ottawawa* burnt by accident this Spring where *Monf. la Free* had the Command, wherein was great store of Beavers and Peltry, and several Goods and Merchandize.

This is the Account the said two Prisoners gave at Albany the 4th. of October, 1692. and is entered down from their Mouths, by his Excellency's Command,

Robert. Livingstone.

The Examination of Joachin Lebert, a Frenchman of Canada, and Native of Mont Royal, taken before his Excellency Benj. Fletcher at Albana the 4th of Octob. 1692.

THat he lived at *Prerie de lay Magdelain*. That it is 60 Leagues from *Mont Royal* to *Quebeck*. That *Mr. de Cellier* is Governour of *Mont Royal*. That there is 2000 Men carrying Arms in his Government, Souldiers and Inhabitants. That the Town of *Mont Royal* is inclosed with Stockadoes. That there is 53 pieces of Canon, Brass and Iron, eight Companies of Souldiers, unequal in number, 50 Men being the most. That

That the Fort of *Magdelaine* contains 23 Families, 400 men in Arms, 2 pieces of Canon, and 5 Patteraroes. There is 200 men in the *Indian* Fort, called, *Ganawagne*. That there is ten Men of War arrived at *Quebeck*, from *France*, laden with Ammunition, and that he saw the said Ships. That he hath been taken 43 days, and says, that the day before his being taken, he being at Mr. *Cellier's* House, he saw a Canow arrive there from Mr. *Le Count*, sent to Mr. *Cellier* to demand the Collers of Beeds, which are usually presented at the concluding a Peace, the which occasioned him to say, there was Ambassadors coming to treat a Peace.

Upon the Objection made, that there could not be so many People in *Canada*, he says, that the two *Frenchmen* that were sent to *Tork* some time since, being now at *Canada*, did inform Mr. *Le Count*, that the *English* had assembled all their Nations, with a design upon *Canada*, which obliged Mr. *Le Count* to raise all the men he could possible, which was that Number he said: And says, he knows nothing more.

*His Excellency Benjamin Fletcher's Speech to the Indians
at the State-House in Albany, February 25, 1692.*

BRETHREN,

IT is not unknown to some of you, that I came last *October* into these parts upon no other occasion than to view the Fronteers, and put them into the best posture I could, to secure us and you, from the Attempts of the *French*, and their *Indians*, our Enemies and yours. And in order to this, I sent a supply of Ammunition, Artillery, and *Christian* Souldiers, sufficient to prevent any Insult from our Enemies, and it had the effect I expected, for they durst not face the weakest of our Garrisons. I came now for your Relief, and have lost no time; the same day that I had an account from hence that our Enemies were in this Countrey, I put my self on board a Sloop,

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and

and brought with me 150 *Christian* Souldiers, besides Volunteers, and arrived here before I could be expected; I then immediately marched to *Schenectady*, from whence I sent you Supplies of 200 and odd Men, Ammunition, Provision, &c. with which those that joyned you before, under the Command of Major *Schuyler*, might have secured an entire Victory, and prevented the *French* and their *Indians* from any possibility of getting back to their own Houses; but it has pleased God to order it otherwise. I had also 200 *Christians* more upon their March, who arrived here, and would have been a considerable Reinforcement to us; but the Action being over, I commanded them back to their former Residence, till further Orders. It is obvious to me, and I believe to you all, that this Calamity is fallen on you by your own Faults. I could never suppose my Brethren, the *Mohawks*, would be so supine and careless, as to suffer the *French*, and their *Indians*, to enter their Castles without the least Resistance. *These Men that have an Enemy near, must sleep with Arms in their Hands, and one Eye open*; that is, they must keep Scouts and Spyes, so as never to become a Prey to their Enemies, by their own Negligence. I must advise you, that for the future you keep strict Watch, so that I may have timely Notice of the Enemy's Motion, and you will then see how easily they will be defeated.

I hope it is now apparent to you, that the great King of *England* is ready to apply his Arms for your defence, when you consider, that in a very days I am come personally to your Assistance, with near 400 *Christian* Souldiers. I have had the Honour to bear Command under the great King of *England*, my Master, where I have seen the *French* fly before his Victorious Arms; and last Summer it pleased God to add to his Victories, by the Defeat and Destruction of their Fleet, in which most of their Ships were burnt or sunk.

I came now in great haste, and brought no Presents with me, but design (by the blessing of God) to be with you at the beginning of the Summer, to give you something to wipe off your Tears for the Brethren that are lately lost, to renew the ancient Covenant Chain, and to give you further Assurances of the Great King of *England's* Favour, and of my own Readiness upon all Occasions to appear

appear as his Servant, for your Protection against our Enemies and yours.

My present Care now is, to provide for the *Mohagues* Nation, about which I have given my Directions to Major *Schuyler*, who will appoint them a place for their Residence; I have also ordered some Corn for their present Support, which they will receive from him. I must add, that it concerns your Honour and Reputation, to make some brisk Attempt upon our Enemies, and this with what Secrecy and Expedition you can, that those People may see you retain the ancient Courage of your Ancestors; and I do not question but God will give you Success by a severe Revenge on our Enemies and yours.

I am informed, that your Young Men have killed the Horses of some *Christian* Souldiers, who were upon the same Service with you, (it is not Brotherly,) and I desire, for the future, you will take care to prevent such Outrage, that the ancient Covenant Chain may be preserved inviolable on your parts, as it will be on the part of my Master, the Great King.

To conclude, I must tell you, that *I doubt there is some false Brothers among us, who keeps Intelligence with our Enemies, concealing their Designs, and exposing ours; if you have one Frenchman among you, he will be true to his Countrey, by betraying you.* I have order'd you some Bread and Bear, and desire you will drink the Healths of my Great Master and Mistress, the Victorious King, and most Illustrious Queen, of *Great Britain, France, and Ireland*, and all Their Majesties Territories in *America*, and so bid you farewell.

The Answer of the Five Nations, viz. The Mohaques, Oneydes, Onondages, Cayouges, and Sinnekes, To his Excellency Benjamin Fletcher, Captain-General and Governour in chief of Their Majesties Province of New York, &c. in Albany this 25th. of February, 1692. Sadeganaktie, Sachim of the Onondages, Speaker. Interpreted by Hille, the Interpreters.

Brother Cayenquirago, which signifies a *Great Swift Arrow*, a Name the Five Nations have given His Excellency, because of his speedy Arrival here, with so many Men for their Relief, when the Enemy had fallen upon the *Mohaques* Country.

When we arrived at *Schenaclady*, after our march against the Enemy, you were pleased to desire us to come hither, where we heard you, *Great Swift Arrow*, speak, and participated of your Favours; we acknowledge that the Enemy, the *French* of *Canada*, have fallen upon our Brethren, the *Mohaques*, and destroyed their three Castles, which we can attribute to nothing else but their not hearkening to the *Great Swift Arrow's* good Advice, which was, to keep good Guards and out Scouts.

We return you, *Brother Great Swift Arrow*, our hearty Thanks for your Care in providing for the *Mohaques*, that they may not starve, nor be in want in this Extremity.

Brother Great Swift Arrow, You propose to us the attacking the Enemy in their Country, to shew them that we have not lost the Courage of our Ancestors; we return you our hearty Thanks for your good Encouragement, for we are in a manner drunk with the Blood lately shed by them. It is not usual for us, while we are in that Grief and Anxiety, as now we are, to proceed to revenge our selves of the Enemy; you have lost your Blood as well as we, therefore that Blood ought to be revenged unanimously by both sides.

Brother

Brother Great Swift Arrow, You recommend us to go and attack the Enemy where they are at home in *Canada*; but you are acquainted with us of Old, that it is our Custom, first to bewail and condole the Death of them killed by the Enemy, for we are all of one Heart, one Blood, one Soul; nevertheless we design to go out and to fall upon the *French*; but we must first secure our Castles, since we know, that the Governour of *Canada* is intended to send out a considerable Party, but whither we know not.

Brother Great Swift Arrow, While you press us to go and attack the Enemy of *Canada* by Land, we expect (according to the many Promises and Engagements made to us) to hear of a considerable Force to go with great Guns by Sea, that the Enemy might be assaulted both ways, and so overcome; we press this the harder, because a great part of our Strength is now broke, and therefore take it not amiss that we push this Point of taking *Canada* by Sea, since its impossible to be done by Land alone.

Brother Great Swift Arrow, We return you our hearty Thanks, that you are so ready to assist us upon any Occasion, and for the good advice to be watchful, and keep out good Scouts and Spies; it is probable, that we would have done a great deal more damage to the Enemy, had we been so well provided with all sorts of Ammunition, as the *Indians* of *Canada* are; but some of our Men have Guns, and no Powder nor Ball, and some but Bows and Arrows, as Major *Schuyler* saw, when we came up to him; but the Governour of *Canada* supplies his *Indians* with all sorts of Arms and Ammunition, which we found now we engaged them.

We pray you, *Great Swift Arrow*, to have a careful Eye over us, since this Party of the *French* that has destroyed the *Mobaques* Castles is but part of his Strength, he is working with the *Ottawawa* and *Dowaganhaes Indians*, where he has a great Magazeen, and supplies them with all sorts of Ammunition, and we fear that Force will come down upon us still.

Brother Great Swift Arrow, We return you Thanks for remembering our Dead, and that you will condole their Death, when you

come up in the beginning of Summer, but you can expect no Return from us, being in so mean a Capacity and Condition.

Brother Great Swift Arrow, You inform us of the great Victory that our Lord of Lord (meaning the great King of *England*) has got upon the *French*, the common Enemy at Sea, which is admirable, and all the Nations are heartily rejoiced at it, and we hope that the great God that has his Seat above the Heavens, will give the same success to our great Lord of Lords Arms in this part of the World, over his and our Enemies, the *French* of *Canada*.

We pray that you would be pleased to acquaint our great Lord of Lords (who lives over the great Lake) of our mean Condition, and what Posture we are in, and how easy it is to destroy *Canada*, if all our great Lord of Lords Subjects in these Collonies would unite and joyn together, with some Ships that carry great Guns, which our great Lord of Lords can easily spare us, after this late Victory over the *French* at Sea.

We desire that you would be pleas'd to order a Smith to be with us in our Country to repair our Arms, that we may defend us from the *French*.

His Excellency replied, That he hoped they were sufficiently satisfied of his Readiness to assist them, and that the Force the *French* had now sent, was the most they could make; and if they will but keep out Scouts, and advertise his Excellency timely of the Enemies coming, his Excellency does not doubt, with the Strength he has in his Province, to deal with the Governour of *Canada*, and all his Power.

The Governour granted their Request of the Smith to be in their Country to repair their Arms.

Proposals made by four of the chief Sachims of the Five Nations, to his Excellency Benjamin Fletcher in Albany the 26th of February, 1692.

Brother great Swift Arrow,

WE are come to acquaint you, that one of our Men has last Night in a drunken Fit, killed an *Indian* that came over from the *French*, at which we are much concerned, and therefore come to see how our *Brother great Swift Arrow* resents it.

We desire that you will be pleased to prohibit the selling of Rum while the War is so hot, since our Souldiers cannot be kept within Bounds, if they be drunk.

Brother great Swift Arrow, We answer'd your Excellency's Proposals yesterday, but had not time to consult with that deliberation as we ought, and if therefore there be any thing omitted, or if we failed of our Duty, we beg that you would be pleas'd to pardon that Omission; for we must declare in behalf of all the Nations, that we are singularly obliged to you, *Brother great Swift Arrow*, for your so extraordinary Dispatch and suddain Arrival here for our Relief, with so considerable a Force, the like never having been done before, whereby we see your readiness and alacrity to help and assist us. And we do also return you Thanks for leaving your Directions with Major *Schnyler* to take care of the *Mohawks* Nation. We are thankful for your kind Expressions, to be so ready to come for our Relief, and that you warn us to come and acquaint you as soon as we see the Enemy a coming a far off, not doubting of your Power to protect us, since we have seen a sufficient Proof of that already by this late Expedition.

Brother great Swift Arrow, We do engage to make a narrow enquiry as soon as we come into our own Country, about the *French* Prisoners, who we suspect may betray us: we have had two Bouts

with the *Onedays* about the Priest *Milet* that is among them, and we intend to try the third time.

We desire that you, *Brother great Swift Arrow*, may come up as soon as the Bark is loose upon the Trees, since we have a Design upon the Enemy.

We forgot to answer you in that Business about the Young-men killing the Horses; we acknowledge, its not Brotherly, but very ill done, and as soon as we come into our Country we will take such Methods that it may be prevented, by finding out them that have done it, causing them to make Satisfaction.

His Excellency replied, that he was much concerned that they should Exercise their Arms one against another, while there is an Enemy in the Field, and hopes they will for the future endeavour to prevent such Irregularities, That they may be now sufficiently convinced how ready the Arms of the great King of *England* is to succour them; and that his Excellency, for his own part, will never spare to expose his Person for their Security. That the Rum shall be prohibited upon their Request; and that the most he requires of them, is to be Vigilant and Careful, and not to suffer themselves to be Surprized, and then they need not fear the *French*.

To his Excellency Benjamin Fletcher, Captain General and Governour in Chief of Their Majesties Province of New-York, Vice-Admiral of the same.

The Humble Address of the Mayor, Aldermen, and Commonality of the City of *Albany*.

May it please your Excellency,

WE are extreamly sensible of your Excellency's special Care, not only for the Safety and Security of your Excellencies Government in general, but in particular for the extraordinary Regard taken for this City, being the utmost Frontier there-

thereof, seated near One Hundred and Fifty Miles up in the Country, whilst the same was attacked by the Enemy of *Canada*, who had surprized and burnt the three Castles of the *Mohagues*, killed divers of their Fighting Men, and led in Captivity upwards of 130 Women and Children; and that your Excellency should, within two Days after Notice received from hence, make that Dispatch, as to be here so suddenly with 300 Men, and sufficient Provisions and Stores of War, for our immediate Relief, which was more than ever could be expected in this Winter Season.

We therefore, out of a deep sence of your Excellency's unparalleld Affection to, and Care for us, cannot but esteem our selves highly obliged to your Excellency, and beg of you to accept our Unfeigned Thanks; assuring your Excellency, As we shall never forget your extraordinary Care of us; so we shall ever admire and beg the continuance of your Excellency's benign Government over us: And since the *Mohagues* Nation is wholly dispersed by the Enemy's burning all their three Castles, and our Farmers live stragling up and down the Country, in great Danger to be cut off by the skulking *Indians*, We pray, that your Excellency, in your Wisdom, will be pleased to order some convenient Place, where the Remnant of the said Nation may be convened together, and fortified for any Attack of the Enemy; and that the Farmers may be ordered to fortifie themselves in Companies together, that the Enemy may not have an advantage of them.

And we humly beg your Excellency to believe, We are always ready to venture our Lives and Fortunes for Their Majesties Service, the Defence of this Province; and with all chearfulness and allacrity shall endeavour, whenever it lies in our Power, to demonstrate our true Affection to your Excellency in particular, and to approve our selves,

Your Excellency's most Dutiful, and most Obedient Servants,

Peter Schuyler, *Mayor.*
Levinus V. Schaick, *Alderman.*
Rymen Barentse, *Assistant.*

} Dirk Wessels, *Recorder.*
} Evert Banker, *Alderman.*
} Johannis Roseboom.

**The House of Representatives for the
Province of New-York, Wednesday A.
M. March 22. 1693. Ordered.**

That the Thanks of this House be given unto his Excellency
for his favourable Speech, and his Care of the Frontiers of
this Province, by the great Dispatch he made in his Personal Ap-
pearance there, upon the late Invasion of the *French*.

Ordered, That Mr. Wessells, Mr. Pell, Mr. Kipp, Capt. White-
head, Mr. Rutsand, Mr. Theunissen, Mr. Tutbill, and Mr. Barnes,
do wait upon his Excellency and Council with this Message.

By Order of the House of Representatives,

James Graham, Speaker.

F I N I S.
